

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02201 041526Z

51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

OMB-01 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 130882

P R 041455Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1627

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 090

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2201

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, SY, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY MANEUVERS

1. DAMASCUS PRESS OCTOBER 4 CARRIED STATEMENT THAT SYRIAN ARMORED UNTIS HAD PREVIOUS DAY COMPLETED MANEUVERS "USING NEW EQUIPMENT AND TACTICS PROFITING FROM EXPERIENCE OF OCTOBER WAR." NEWS REPORT STATED AIR UNITS WERE ALSO INVOLVED. ISRAELI RADIO THIS MORNING CARRIED STATEMENT BY DEFENSE MINISTER PERES COMMENTING ON THE PROVOCATIVENESS OF THESE MANEUVERS. PAST SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE SEEN NUMBER OF ISRAELI MANEUVERS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. IN LATE AUGUST GOI ANNOUNCED IT WOULD BE STAGING MANEUVERS ON GOLAN; IN MID-SEPTEMBER IT CARRIED OUT SECOND SERIES OF MANEUVERS WHICH WERE NOT PUBLICIZED UNTIL COMPLETED.

2. SOUNDED OUT CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI IN RECENT MEETING WHETHER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN AVOIDING MISCALCULATIONS IF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02201 041526Z

SARG KNEW WHEN GOI PLANNED TO STAGE MANEUVERS. (THIS

WAS IN CONNECTION WITH ISRAEL'S UNANNOUNCED MID-SEPTEMBER
MANEUVERS WHICH HAD PUT SYRIAN FORCES BACK ON ALERT STATUS.)
SHIHABI ACKNOWLEDGED IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF SARG HAD ADVANCE
KNOWLEDGE. ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE CONSIDERED ISRAELI
MANEUVERS CLOSE TO DISENGAGEMENT LINE TO BE
PROVOCATION, WHETHER ANNOUNCED OR NOT, AND SAID HE COULD
NOT ASSOCIATE SARG WITH ANY REQUEST TO ISRAEL FOR ADVANCE
WARNING.

3. COMMENT: UN ROLE: I AM UNAWARE WHETHER SILASVUO IS
KEPT INFORMED BY EITHER SYRIA OR ISRAEL ABOUT THEIR
INTENTIONS TO STAGE MANEUVERS ON GOLAN. STRIKES ME THAT IF
HE IS NOT SO INFORMED AND INVOLVED AS MESSENGER TO OTHER PARTY,
HE SHOULD BE. ANY WAY TO KEEP UNANNOUNCED MANEUVERS FROM SPARKING
ARMED
CLASH SHOULD BE EMPLOYED.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-0371
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741073/aaaackhl.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY MANEUVERS
TAGS: MPOL, SY, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005